

FORM 3

**COVER SHEET
EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING PROGRAM NOTICE OF INTENT
(LOCATION NOI)**

Program InformationProgram Name: Master of Arts in Rehabilitation CounselingInstitution Name: Western Washington UniversityDegree Granting Unit: Woodring College of Education
(e.g. College of Arts and Science)Degree: M.A. Rehabilitation Counseling Level: Master Type: Arts
(e.g. B.S. Chemistry) (e.g. Bachelor) (e.g. Science)Major: Rehabilitation Counseling CIP Code: 51.2310
(e.g. Chemistry)Minor: _____
(if required for major)Concentration(s): _____
(if applicable)Proposed Start Date: September 27, 2006Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 39 At Full Enrollment by Year: 2009: 41
(# FTE) (# FTE)Proposed New Funding: N/AFunding Source: ☐ State FTE ☒ Self Support ☒ Other: US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services
Administration, Long-Term Training Grants**Mode of Delivery / Locations**☐ Single Campus Delivery _____
(enter location)☒ Off Site Mountlake Terrace, WA
(enter location(s))☒ Distance Learning combination of face-to-face and online
(enter formats)☐ Other

Note: If the program is the first to be offered at a given site or location, the submission must also include the information required for the establishment of a new teaching site as outlined in section B.1 of the Program and Facility Approval Policy and Procedures.

Flexible Scheduling

- ☒ Evening Classes
☐ Weekend Classes
☒ Other online

Attendance Options

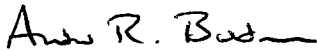
- ☒ Full-Time
☒ Part-Time

Substantive Statement of Need

Attach Sheet

Contact Information (Academic Department Representative)

Name: Geno Pichette, PhD, CRC
Title: Department Chair
Address: Department of Human Services and Rehabilitation, MS-9087
Western Washington University
516 High St
Bellingham WA 98225-9087
Telephone: 360-650-4456
Fax: 360-650-7792
Email: Geno.Pichette@wwu.edu



Endorsement by Chief Academic Officer

7-28-06

Date

EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING PROGRAM NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (LOCATION NOI)

Substantive Statement of Need

The Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling program was approved by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board effective the Fall of 1999. In the original application to establish the master's program, it was stated that "the curriculum is also developed so that courses can be delivered through distance learning using various technologies which are selected on a course by course basis." Because of increasing regional demand for the program, we have carefully and deliberately extended the extent to which the program is accessible via distance learning (online). ***Therefore, we are notifying the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board of our intention to deliver the program via distance learning in addition to our traditional site-based program.***

The graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling continues to be the only program in the State of Washington. Due to the needs of the employers of the graduates and the students themselves, the program has begun to offer more of a combination of face-to-face and distance learning (online) delivery methods. Over 50% of our current students are individuals with disabilities and the online component of the program adds to its accessibility. This degree continues to be in high demand as the number of position openings in Washington is expected to increase over the next five years, mainly due to the aging of the current rehabilitation counseling staff. According to Mr. Chuck Paeth, Staff Development Manager for the Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, there will be a turnover rate of approximately 15% for professional and paraprofessional counseling positions. Therefore, within this one agency, there are expected to be approximately 22 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor positions per year with a five year total of 80-100 new Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors needing to be hired.

There has been an increase in the national trend of distance learning within Rehabilitation Counseling graduate programs. At the October 2003 Board Meeting of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, approval was given to develop a special interest section within that organization for rehabilitation counseling educators interested in distance learning. This was predicated on the fact that distance education was becoming an important program of rehabilitation counseling education because this delivery format offered an opportunity for more access to education to students who would not be able to attend the programs due to geographical constraints, disability barriers, or other limitation. There are currently several programs across the country who are offering a distance learning option for their graduate students. These programs include Auburn University, San Diego State University, Southern University, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Utah State University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition to these programs, there are many universities that offer distance learning courses within the traditional face-to-face delivery.

FORM 5**Part I****ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION TARGETS**

Include this form with a new degree program proposal or a Notice of Intent to extend an existing program. Staff will post this information to the HECB Web site during the comment period.

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Headcount	58	60	60	62	62
FTE	39	40	40	41	41
Program Graduates	14	16	18	20	20